

SHAPE MEMORY ALLOY ACTUATOR

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A controller (44) for a SMA actuator (2) includes an electric power source (46) for applying an electric current through an SMA element (8), a sensor (48) to detect change in an electric resistance of the element (8); and a regulator (50) for controlling the magnitude of the applied electric current. The regulator (50) applies a first current above a safe limit current for the element (8) until a selected change in the electric resistance is detected and applies a second current less than the first current after the change is detected.

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